

SB 46 & 406 TESTIMONY

MARCH 13, 2009

EXHIBIT 23

DATE 3/26/09

SB 406

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

MY NAME IS RICK KOMENDA K O M E N D A

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK SENATOR McGEE FOR SPONSERING THESE PIECES OF LEGISLATION.

I AM A PROFESSIONAL FORESTER EMPLOYED BY THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION. I MANAGE TIMBER RESOURCES ON SCHOOL TRUST LANDS ON THE STILLWATER STATE FOREST NORTH OF WHITEFISH MONTANA. THE STILLWATER FOREST IS THE LARGEST STATE FOREST IN MONTANA. PLEASE COME AND VISIT THE FOREST SOMETIME.

I AM HERE REPRESENTING MYSELF AND THE MONTANA PRO LIFE COALITION.

I AM HERE AS A PROPONENT IN SUPPORT OF SB 46 AND SB 406, IN SUPPORT OF OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, AND IN SUPPORT OF OUR REPRESENTATIVE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH ALL OF YOU ARE MAIN PLAYERS IN THAT PROCESS.

YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED "BY THE PEOPLE" TO REPRESENT AND SUPPORT THE VOICES OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS "WE THE PEOPLE".

MY QUESTION TO YOU IS "DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CONSTITUENTS STAND ON THE ISSUE OF ABORTION?" CAN YOU HONESTLY SAY "YES, I KNOW WHERE THE PEOPLE I REPRESENT STAND ON THE ISSUE OF LIFE?" I WOULD HESITATE TO BELIEVE ANY OF YOU IF YOU WERE TO SAY YES, "I KNOW WHERE THE MAJORITY OF MY CONSTITUENTS STAND ON THE ISSUE OF RIGHT TO LIFE."

FOLKS, I COULD PERSONALLY CARE LESS WHAT YOUR POSITION ON ABORTION IS. WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS "WHAT THE POSITION OF THE VOTERS OF MONTANA IS WHEN IT COMES TO LIFE."

WHEN YOU CAST YOUR VOTE ON THIS LEGISLATION, YOUR VOTE IS NOT WHETHER YOU ARE PRO LIFE OR PRO CHOICE, BUT WHETHER YOU WILL UPHOLD AND SUPPORT OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

A VOTE "NO" ON THIS LEGISLATION WILL PLACE YOUR OATH TO SWEAR TO UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION IN QUESTION.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO PUT A MONKEY ON YOUR BACK OR PAINT YOURSELF INTO A CORNER ON THIS ISSUE AT THIS TIME. JUST VOTE "YES" ON THIS LEGISLATION, AND THEN JOIN US "WE THE PEOPLE" AT THE VOTING BOOTHS, IN NOVEMBER OF 2010, AND VOICE YOUR PERSONAL OPINION ON ABORTION AT THAT TIME.

THANK YOU AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION.